

II. REMARKS

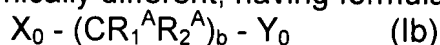
Claims 17-24 and 26-42 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 42 is added and claims 17 and 35 are amended. Support for the amendments is contained throughout the specification as filed and in the originally filed claims. For example, the amendments to claim 17 are supported by originally filed claim 4 and page 7 of the specification. Claim 35 is amended to correct an informality, as recommended by the Examiner and the amendments are supported by originally filed claim 6 and the first full paragraph on page 8 of the specification. Meanwhile, claim 42 is supported by originally filed claim 1. No new matter is added.

Claim 35 is objected to for the asserted informalities. Applicants respectfully submit that this objection has been overcome by the above amendments to claim 35, as recommended by the Examiner on page 2 of the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to claim 35.

Claims 17-24 and 26-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for asserted indefiniteness. This rejection is traversed.

Applicants respectfully note that claim 17 discloses the following:

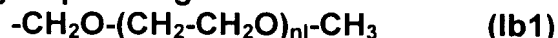
b) bifunctional hydrogenated monomers wherein the two functions are chemically different, having formula:



wherein:

...

Y_0 is SO_3 , $COOH$ or a tertiary aminic group $NR'_N R''_N$..., or, when in the formula (lb) $X_0 = OH$, $b = 1$, $R_1^A = R_2^A = H$, Y_0 is a hydrophilic group having formula



...

and one or more of the following compounds:

c) bifunctional hydroxyl (per)fluoropolyethers ...;

e) monofunctional hydroxyl (per)fluoropolyethers (e^0) or monofunctional hydroxyl (per)fluoroalkanes (e') ...,

and optionally the following compounds:

d) hydrogenated monomers ... having the formula (Ib), wherein ... **Y_0 is selected from the following functional groups:** $-\text{CH}-\text{CH}_2$, $-\text{OCOC}(\text{R}_1^B)\text{C}=\text{CH}_2$, $-\text{Si}(\text{OR}_x)_3$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}=\text{CH}_2$, $-\text{OCH}=\text{CH}_2$



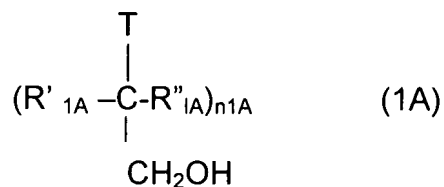
...;

dl) blocking agents of the NCO group

(emphasis added). Applicants submit that the definitions of Y_0 within present claim 17 clearly set forth the meaning of Y_0 and do not overlap. With the bifunctional hydrogenated monomers of b) of present claim 17, " Y_0 is SO_3 , COOH or a tertiary aminic group $\text{NR}'_N\text{R}''_N$..., or, when in the formula (Ib) $X_0 = \text{OH}$, $b = 1$, $\text{R}_1^A = \text{R}_2^A = \text{H}$, Y_0 is a hydrophilic group having formula $-\text{CH}_2\text{O}-(\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2\text{O})_n-\text{CH}_3$ (Ib1)" (emphasis added)." Meanwhile, with the hydrogenated monomers of d), " Y_0 is selected from the following functional groups ..." The definition of Y_0 in d) does not refer to the functional hydrogenated monomers of b). Further, none of the disclosed functional groups for the hydrogenated monomers of d) include the meanings of the Y_0 substituent of b). Therefore, the functional groups of the hydrogenated monomers d) cannot be attributed to the Y_0 substituent of b).

In order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have replaced the expression " Y_0 is anionic or salifiable function" with " Y_0 is SO_3 , COOH or a tertiary aminic group $\text{NR}'_N\text{R}''_N$..." in b) of present claim 17. As noted above, this amendment is supported by the originally filed specification and claims. For example, Applicants note that page 7 of the specification discloses the following:

The heterofunctional hydrogenated monomers mentioned in b) wherein preferably in the function X_AH with $X_A = O$, preferably have the following structure formula:



wherein T is SO_3H , COOH , or a tertiary aminic group $\text{NR}'_N\text{R}''_N$, wherein R'_N and R''_N equal to or different from each other, are a linear or branched $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ alkyl, ...

As one of the preferred embodiments of b), one of skill in the art reviewing the specification would understand that T corresponds to Y_0 of formula (1b) of component b). T has an anionic salifiable function when T is SO_3H or COOH , and T has a cationic salifiable function when T is a tertiary aminic group $\text{NR}'_N\text{R}''_N$. Further, in formula (1A), group X_AH is present (see page 7, line 15 of the specification), which corresponds to X_0 of formula (1b).

Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is overcome by the above remarks and the above amendments to claim 17. Dependent claims 18-24 and 26-42 are patentable for at least the same reasons as independent claim 17.


For at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 17-24 and 26-41 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

III. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, allowance of claims 17-24 and 26-42, and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability are respectfully solicited. If this application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone listed below.

In the event that this response is not timely filed, the applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension, along with any additional fees that are required with respect to this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referencing Attorney Docket No. 108910-00009.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosures: Claims Transmittal